

**Notice of Allowance dated 04/01/2009**

Appl. No. 10/773,559

Amdt. dated 04/14/2009

Attorney Docket No. 1217-040223

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) A coated carrier comprising a carrier core material and a resin coating layer with which the carrier core material is coated, wherein the carrier core material consists essentially of a ferrite component having composition represented by the following formula (A):



wherein y and z are each expressed in % by mol and are numbers satisfying the conditions of  $40 \leq z < 100$  and  $y+z=100$ , M is a metal selected from Fe, Cu, Zn, Mn, Mg, Ni, Sr, Ca and Li, and MO is one or more oxides selected from oxides of these metals,

at least one metal oxide ( $M^L O$ ) having a melting point of not higher than 1000°C and at least one metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) having a melting point of not lower than 1800°C, wherein the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) and the metal oxide ( $M^L O$ ) are contained in the ferrite component, the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) is at least one metal oxide selected from the group consisting of  $ZrO_2$ ,  $TiO_2$  and  $Ta_2O_5$ , and the metal oxide ( $M^L O$ ) is at least one metal oxide selected from the group consisting of  $Bi_2O_3$  and  $P_2O_5$ , a part of the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) is independently present in the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier, a coercive force (Hc) of the carrier core material is not more than 50 Oe and the carrier core material has an average particle diameter of 15 to 70  $\mu m$ .

18. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal ( $M^H$ ) for constituting the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) has an electrical resistivity of not less than  $10^{-5} \Omega \cdot cm$ .

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19. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal oxide (MO) is at least one metal oxide selected from the group consisting of FeO, MnO, MgO, CaO, Li<sub>2</sub>O and SrO.

Claims 20-39 (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the weight ratio ((M<sup>L</sup>O)/(M<sup>H</sup>O)) of the metal oxide (M<sup>L</sup>O) to the metal oxide (M<sup>H</sup>O) contained in the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier is in the range of 0.01 to 50.

41. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the total content ((M<sup>L</sup>O)+(M<sup>H</sup>O)) by weight of the metal oxide (M<sup>L</sup>O) and the metal oxide (M<sup>H</sup>O) in the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier is in the range of 0.02 to 24% by weight.

42. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal oxide (M<sup>H</sup>O) is contained inside the particle of the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier in a concentration higher than that in the vicinity of the surface of the particle thereof.

43. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the melting point of the metal oxide (M<sup>L</sup>O) is in the range of 550 to 900°C and the melting point of the metal oxide (M<sup>H</sup>O) is in the range of 1800 to 3500°C.

44. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the carrier core material is coated with 0.01 to 10 parts by weight of a resin based on 100 parts by weight of the carrier core material.

45. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, having an average particle diameter of 15 to 70  $\mu$ m.

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46. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, having an electrical resistivity of not less than  $10^7 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ .

47. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, having no heat history of being heated to a temperature higher than the melting point of the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) contained in the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier.

48. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the carrier core material for forming the coated carrier has an electrical resistivity of not less than  $10^2 \Omega \cdot \text{cm}$ .

49. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, having a magnetization, at 1000 ( $10^3/4\pi \cdot \text{A/m}$ ) (1000 oersted), of 40 to 100  $\text{Am}^2/\text{kg}$  (40 to 100 emu/g).

50. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the resin for forming the coated carrier is a silicone type thermosetting resin.

51. (Currently Amended) A two-component developing agent for electrophotography electrophotography, comprising the coated carrier of claim 17 and toner particles having an average particle diameter of 3 to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claims 52-55 (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal oxide ( $M^L O$ ) is  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$ .

57. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) is  $\text{ZrO}_2$ .

58. (Previously Presented) The coated carrier as claimed in claim 17, wherein the metal oxide ( $M^L O$ ) is  $\text{Bi}_2\text{O}_3$  and the metal oxide ( $M^H O$ ) is  $\text{ZrO}_2$ .